

Twenty-first Biennial Report
of the
Superintendent
of the
North Dakota
School for the Blind



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR TWO YEARS
July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1950

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Buy "Dakota Maid" Flour

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Established by Act of Legislature in 1895. Opened Feb. 18, 1908

Officers and Teachers—1948-1949

Herbert D. Jeffrey, B.S., LLB.	Superintendent
Estyre Sundstrom	Teacher, Junior High School
Rose Samuelson	Teacher, Primary, Sight Saving
Annie Slagerman	Teacher, Primary
Joyce Kraulik, B.A.	Teacher, Piano, Chorus
Ada E. Mark	Teacher, Braille, Handwork, Spelling
Bessie Brady	Teacher, Industrial Work
Alice Elsie Messecar	Matron
Elin Erlendson	Boys' Housemother

J. A. McNeill, M.D., Visiting Physician

Officers and Teachers—1949-1950

Herbert D. Jeffrey, B.S., LLB.	Superintendent
Shirley Johnson, B.A. (First Semester)	Teacher, High School
Harriett Knutson, B.A. (Second Semester)	Teacher, High School
Estyre Sundstrom	Teacher, Junior High School
Rose Samuelson, B.S.	Teacher, Primary, Sight Saving
Annie Slagerman	Teacher, Primary
Ada E. Mark	Teacher, Braille, Handwork, Spelling
Therese Ryan, B.M.	Teacher, Piano, Chorus
Bessie Brady	Teacher, Industrial Work
Alice Elsie Messecar	Matron
Marie Lester	Boys' Housemother

J. P. Boreskie, M.D., Visiting Physician

PURPOSE

The North Dakota State School for the Blind is a school for the education of blind and partially sighted children in the State of North Dakota, who, because of this handicap, are not able to receive proper training in the public schools. The school is maintained by the state, under the direction of the Board of Administration.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Applicants for admission must be of school age (between the ages of 6 and 21), capable of receiving an education, of good moral character, and free from chronic infection. In exceptional cases the rule as to age is modified. No charge is made for board, room, laundry, books, instruction, or ordinary medical attention. Parents, the county, or some other agency must pay for travel expenses, clothing, and incidentals. Application blanks will be furnished at any time upon request, but no child will be admitted until the application has been returned with all questions satisfactorily answered, and it has been approved by the superintendent. The School will appreciate receiving names and addresses of all children eligible for admission.



Large, dissected relief maps are only one type of special equipment available

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

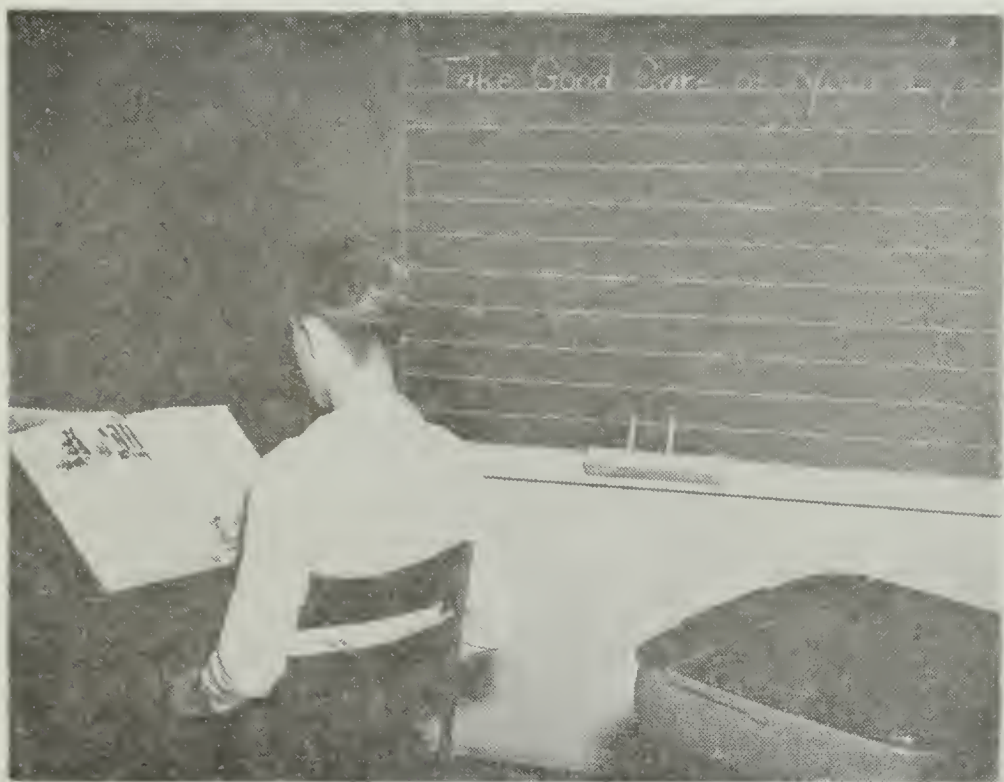
Full educational advantages are offered from the Kindergarten through four years of High School. Our Course of Study is practically the same as that offered in the public schools of this state. We have both the Braille and Sight Saving Departments which parallel each other. The Braille group consists of children who are totally blind or whose vision is too defective to read print or to use it safely. Pupils in this department prepare their lessons from books printed in a raised dot system called "Braille" which is read by the sense of touch in the finger tips.

SIGHT SAVING DEPARTMENT

Our pupils in the Sight Saving Department prepare their lessons in the same manner as the pupils do in the public schools. The vision of pupils in the Sight Saving Department ranges from 20/200 to 20/70. Before a pupil is assigned sight saving work, it is necessary to have the recommendation of an ophthalmologist. Special equipment is used in this work. The desks are movable and adjustable so that the best lighting effects can be obtained. The writing that is taught is not the usual script writing taught in public schools; it is manuscript writing which is a vertical method. Special cream colored paper with heavy green lines is used, and the pencils have soft black lead. The board work is done on a green board instead of a blackboard, and the chalk is yellow in color. The textbooks for this department are printed in 24 point type, the size of the average one-column newspaper headline. The pages are cream colored and have no gloss. Every precaution is taken to remove eye strain from all school work. A specially trained teacher has charge of this department.



Blind children train their fingers to read braille books



A Sight Saving Pupil reading large type textbook

MUSIC

The pupils are given the opportunity to study both vocal and instrumental music. Several of our pupils have received superior ratings in music contests in competition with public school boys and girls. Three times a year recitals are presented to the public in the school auditorium. We feel that recitals give confidence and encouragement to the students, and that they add to the cultural life of the school. The music department is always ready to furnish talent for musical programs which are requested by civic and social organizations of the surrounding towns as well as for our own school entertainments.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational training includes piano tuning which is a profitable trade for some of the boys; weaving, basketry and mat making for both boys and girls; and crocheting and knitting for the girls. We have a department of homemaking. The aim of this department is to give every girl training in all the phases of homemaking. In the cooking classes, the girls learn how to properly prepare and cook foods, and how to properly serve meals. They also study food requirements and household problems.

TYPEWRITING

All of the pupils are taught typewriting. This subject is introduced in the fifth grade which is much earlier than in the public school curriculum. The pupils use the typewriter to communicate with their friends as well as for written school lessons.



Our boys learn piano tuning and repairing



A full course in rug weaving is offered

HEALTH

The general health of the pupils during the biennium has been satisfactory. Nutrition is recognized as a vital factor in growing children and menus are planned to give a sufficient quantity of food and the essential elements needed for bodily growth and protection against disease.

Our school doctor visits our school once each week. If necessary, he calls more often. Quite frequently during the school year, pupils need the attention of specialists. Whenever this is necessary, the pupils are taken to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where competent specialists are available.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Outdoor sports and exercise are encouraged in order to maintain good health among our pupils. Our pupils enjoy many of the outdoor games and sports that seeing children enjoy, such as: roller skating, ice skating, croquet, swinging, sliding, teeter-tottering, ball playing, boating, and hiking. The school grounds are large and well equipped with playground apparatus. New equipment has been added within the past year.

Each winter we have a large outdoor skating rink and a warming house. Ice skating is the students' most popular sport. The pupils help maintain the rink under the supervision of the superintendent. The superintendent and the teachers give the pupils instruction in skating. When the weather is favorable the pupils skate about one and one-half hours each evening. The teachers and superintendent supervise the skating program.

Many picnics are held during the year. We have an attractive fire-place on the campus where many of the picnic meals are prepared and served. Several times during the school year our pupils are taken in our school bus to Lake Bronson, Minn., for a day's outing. There the pupils enjoy boating, wading, hiking, and picnicking.

Parties are held frequently and special parties are given at Hallowe'en, Christmas and other holidays. Many of the games enjoyed by our pupils are games that seeing children enjoy. Of course, it is necessary to revise some of the games to accommodate the blind children. The dancing parties are especially enjoyed. Some of our older pupils are members of young people's societies in our local churches where they take an active part in the activities of the organization. Many of our pupils sing in church choirs and prepare special numbers for church services.

SCOUTING

One of the most valued of our school organizations is the Girl Scout Troop. Under the fine leadership of two teachers, this troop has won for itself many complimentary notices. The purpose of this organization

is to create a means of wholesome, recreational, educational, and social activity. The greater part of the Girl Scout activity is within the school. There is a meeting every week which may take the form of a general meeting, study group, party, or picnic.

Some of the Girl Scout activities have also been remunerative. For the past several years they have made hand lotion to sell. They also have skating parties and candy sales. The proceeds have been used to pay the troop's dues and to make donations to the Red Cross, and many other worthy organizations.

Perhaps the happiest occasion of all the year and one that the girls look forward to with eagerness is their annual trip. In May 1949 the girls and leaders made their second annual trip to Bemidji, Minn., where they were week end guests at the summer home of Dr. and Mrs. P. H. Woutat. The girls spent a great deal of the time on the lake rowing and fishing. Many went in swimming and wading. They visited Lake Itasca and many other places of interest. In the spring of 1950, the leaders took the girls on a trip shopping and visiting places of interest in North Dakota.

MUSIC CLUB

This group meets once a week and its aim is to stimulate the pupils' interest in music. The group studies harmony, history of music and the lives of outstanding composers. The music club is under the direction of our piano teacher.

BOYS' CLUB

THE BEAVERS, a boys' club for small boys, was organized by Miss Ada E. Mark, a teacher, in the fall of 1947. The club places emphasis on three major aims. They are: Social development, wise use of leisure, and citizenship. The club has taken a keen interest in work being done for crippled children and has taken an active part in collecting funds for this work. Each year the club sends a gift to the children at the Crippled Children's School in Jamestown, North Dakota.

In May, 1949 the club sponsored a successful school carnival. Some of the proceeds were used to make contributions to worthwhile organizations. During the same month the club members and leader took a one-day trip to Winnipeg, Manitoba, in our school bus and visited many places of interest.

PUPIL COMPETES IN AREA SPELLING BEE IN MINNEAPOLIS

Joyce Hoffa, one of our pupils, placed first and received a gold medal in the Pembina County Spelling Bee on March 25, 1950. As a first place winner she represented Pembina County at the Minneapolis Tribune Spelling Bee in Minneapolis on April 15, 1950. Contestants participating in the Tribune finals represented schools of the upper midwest states, including Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Western Wisconsin. There were 118 contestants in all. Each contestant was a first



Joyce Hoffa receiving gold medal for placing first in the Pembina County Spelling Bee March 25, 1950. Miss Rose Samuelson, Joyce's teacher, looks on.

place winner in his or her county. Joyce was one of the high 25 finalists who spelled in the oral spelling finals in the afternoon of April 15. Our school is very proud of the achievement of both Joyce and her teacher, Miss Rose Samuelson.

LIBRARY

We have a Braille Circulating Library which provides a wide range of reading material for the blind of this state. The books are sent out to blind borrowers in the state as "Free Reading Matter for the Blind," free of charge. We also have a braille library containing textbooks for classroom purposes.

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AID

Many of our graduates attend schools of higher learning in order to prepare themselves for suitable employment. Financial assistance is available for this purpose. The assistance is secured from the North Dakota Rehabilitation Service. Such assistance includes travel expenses to and from the college or place of learning, books, tuition and the cost of having a reader. The cost of board and room for the student while at college is usually secured through the Welfare Board of the county of which the student is a resident.

The School is very proud of the accomplishments of its alumni. Former pupils of this School are engaged in a great variety of endeavors.

WHAT SOME OF OUR GRADUATES ARE DOING

Boys

Popcorn Stand Operators
 Rehabilitation Workers
 Chiropractor
 Piano Salesman
 Radio Repairman
 Farmers
 Masseurs
 Public Reader
 Concert Pianist and Teacher
 Magazine Stand Operators
 Voice Instructor
 Musician in Dance Orchestra
 Minister
 Piano Tuners

Girls

Tutors
 Piano Teachers
 Specialists in Speech Defects
 Grade School Teachers
 High School Teacher
 Typists
 Dictaphone Operators
 Social Service Workers
 Masseuse
 Seamstress
 Stenographer
 Housewives
 Factory Workers
 Industrial Teacher

The School is particularly proud of the large number of former pupils who have graduated from universities and other institutions of higher learning. This pride is thoroughly justified when it is considered that almost all of these college graduates are engaged in remunerative employment which renders them self-supporting, and that the type of employment is due to the fact that they had the opportunity to continue their education after graduation from our high school. The record is also good regarding those who have not attended institutions of higher learning.

THE TALKING BOOK MACHINE

The North Dakota School for the Blind is the lending agency of talking book machines for the adult blind of this state. Any adult blind resident may secure one of these machines by making application through the superintendent of this School. These machines are not given outright to applicants, but are loaned for an indefinite period under certain restrictions and regulations.

SPECIAL CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE TO THE BLIND

There is a special deduction for the blind in the Federal Income Tax Law. A blind taxpayer, in reporting his income, is permitted to take a personal deduction of \$600.00 in addition to other deductions authorized by law. The change in the law was made in recognition of the fact that a blind person has certain expenses growing out of blindness which seeing taxpayers do not have to meet.

Special travel concessions are also available to the blind. A privilege is also granted by certain railroads and buslines whereby a blind person can take a seeing attendant with him for the cost of one regular fare. The blind person should address his request to the American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York City. More

information with regard to this reduced rate concessions may be secured from the Superintendent of this School.

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENTS DURING BIENNIUM

The students at our School are away from home for nine months. During this time the School tries to maintain all of the activities which normally would be carried on at home. This means that the social and cultural life of the children must receive attention. An effort is made during the year to give a variety of outside entertainment in addition to our school parties and programs.

During the past biennium two outstanding musical groups in the state gave programs for the benefit of our pupils. The Oak Grove Seminary Mixed Chorus of Fargo, North Dakota, gave a program in the spring of 1949 and the University Madrigal Club appeared here in the fall of 1949.

Our school joined with the Bathgate Public School and provided four lyceum programs and eleven movies for the benefit of the pupils from both schools. This was a very satisfactory arrangement.

Many times during the school year the pupils are taken in our school bus to neighboring towns on pleasure trips.

IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS

Several major improvements were made during the past biennium.

In 1948 congoleum was laid in the downstairs girls' dormitory, downstairs girls' bathroom, downstairs boys' bathroom, and the ironing room.

In August 1949 new shingles were put on the roof of the Main Building at a cost of \$1,525.02.

In September 1949 our #2 boiler was re-set and raised to the proper level at a cost of \$2,465.00. Additional piping not included in the re-setting contract cost \$137.19.

We put a new steel flagpole in front of our Main Building in the fall of 1949.

New pieces of playground equipment were installed. In the fall of 1949 a horizontal ladder was added to the boys' playground. In the summer of 1950 a new bedway for the boys' slide was installed and a merry-go-round was added to the girls' playground.

New desks were purchased for the intermediate school room.

Thirty rooms were redecorated. Other minor improvements were made about the campus and buildings which tend to add to the well being of pupils and employees.

Valuable additions to our print and braille libraries were made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend a general increase in all the items of the budget for the 1951-1953 biennium in order that we may maintain the same high standard of service to the young blind of North Dakota.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In closing this report, I wish to thank each member of the Board of Administration for his help and thoughtful interest.

The faithfulness of the faculty and employees and their interest in the pupils personally has had a great deal to do with the success we have had during the past biennium. This faithfulness and cooperation are appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

HERBERT D. JEFFREY
Superintendent

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 1, 1948 — June 30, 1949

	Balance on Hand July 1, 1948	Collections	Expenditures	Balance on Hand June 30, 1949
INTEREST AND INCOME	\$ 37,234.93	\$ 13,366.90	\$ 23,152.03	\$ 27,449.80
INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS	4,422.93	410.25	.....	4,833.18
MAINTENANCE	24,888.96	.....	21,223.42	3,665.54
IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS				
General	1,905.49	.....	1,559.86	345.63
New Shingles for Main Building (this includes labor and tinwork)	2,000.00	.....	.....	2,000.00
EQUIPMENT				
General Equipment	717.07	.....	712.73	4.34
MISCELLANEOUS				
Miscellaneous Expense	897.13	.....	608.19	288.94
PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1947	1,293.84	.....	.....	1,293.84
Totals	\$ 73,360.35	\$ 13,777.15	\$ 47,256.23	\$ 39,881.27

EXPENDITURES CLASSIFIED FOR THE YEAR

July 1, 1948 — June 30, 1949

SALARIES AND WAGES:

1. Salary—Superintendent	\$ 3,399.96	
2. Faculty	9,825.00	
3. Other Employees	16,685.17	
		\$ 29,910.13

OPERATING EXPENSE:

1. Fuel—including Freight	\$ 2,623.31	
2. Light, Power, Water, Telephone, Telegraph, Postage, Freight, Express	1,334.02	
3. Insurance, Bonds, etc.	391.80	
4. Printing, Office and Ed. Supplies	863.62	
5. Travel	64.74	
6. Power House Supplies	328.71	
7. Janitor's Supplies	26.93	
8. Students' Welfare	371.49	
9. Food—including Meats, etc.	6,227.49	
10. Clothing	218.11	
11. Hospital and Medical Service	328.73	
12. Laundry Costs	192.36	
13. Farm, Garden and Grounds	623.67	
		\$ 13,594.98

IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS:

1. General Repairs	\$ 1,559.86	
2. New Shingles for Main Building (This includes labor and tinwork)		
		\$ 1,559.86

EQUIPMENT:

1. General	\$ 712.73	
		\$ 712.73

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

1. Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 608.19	
2. State Land Department Refunds	820.09	
3. Refund Payment for property damage in July 2, 1948 tornado	50.25	
		\$ 1,478.53

Total Payments for the Year	\$ 47,256.23
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 1, 1949 — June 30, 1950

	Balance on Hand July 1, 1949	Collections	Expenditures	Balance on Hand June 30, 1950
INTEREST AND INCOME	\$ 27,449.80	\$ 13,632.70	\$ 12,315.04	\$ 28,767.46
INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS	4,833.18	319.13	.....	5,152.31
MAINTENANCE	96,531.16	.....	37,756.35	58,774.81
IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS				
General Repairs	4,000.00	.....	1,503.55	2,496.45
Painting Interior and Repairing Floors in Main Building	2,500.00	.....	195.00	2,305.00
Raising and Resetting No. 2 Boiler, new smoke box, etc	2,500.00	.....	2,465.00	35.00
EQUIPMENT				
General Equipment	5,000.00	.....	2,155.70	2,844.30
MISCELLANEOUS				
Miscellaneous Items	2,000.00	.....	814.06	1,185.94
PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1949	6,304.45	.....	4,526.94	1,777.51
Totals	\$151,118.59	\$ 13,951.83	\$ 61,731.64	\$103,338.78

EXPENDITURES CLASSIFIED FOR THE YEAR

July 1, 1949 — June 30, 1950

SALARIES AND WAGES:

1. Salary—Superintendent	\$ 3,750.00	
2. Faculty	13,966.55	
3. Other Employees	18,110.89	
4. Teachers' Retirement Fund and Old Age and Survivors Insurance	625.12	
		\$ 36,452.56

OPERATING EXPENSE:

1. Fuel—including Freight	\$ 3,734.67	
2. Light, Power, Water, Telephone, Telegraph, Postage, Freight and Express..	1,362.47	
3. Insurance, Bonds, etc.	844.98	
4. Printing, Office and Educational Supplies	1,256.89	
5. Travel	187.88	
6. Power House Supplies	381.54	
7. Janitors' Supplies	43.50	
8. Students' Welfare	250.10	
9. Food—including Meats, etc.	4,556.12	
10. Clothing	24.90	
11. Hospital and Medical Service	174.66	
12. Laundry Costs	72.25	
13. Farm, Garden and Grounds	722.87	
		\$ 13,612.83

IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS:

1. General Repairs	\$ 1,503.55	
2. Painting Interior and Repairing Floors in Main Building	195.00	
3. Raising and Resetting No. 2 Boiler, new smoke box, etc.	2,465.00	
		\$ 4,163.55

EQUIPMENT:

1. General Equipment	\$ 2,155.70	
		\$ 2,155.70

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Miscellaneous Items	\$ 814.06	
2. State Land Department Refunds	6.00	
3. Prior to July 1, 1949	4,526.94	
		\$ 5,347.00

TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	\$ 61,731.64
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